



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Anacortes Lutheran Church - December 2022 Newsletter

A blessed Advent and a merry Christmas!

I have found over the years that the more I take time to enjoy Advent the more wondrous Christmas becomes. By taking the time to spend time with the prophets of old as they shared the news of the “one to come” I have relished in the history that we share with the Jewish Tradition. It puts into context the reminder that God continues to watch over all of us and invites us to the stable to kneel at the manger and behold the Christ Child. We are surrounded by the very reality of what is important in life – love, hope, joy, and faith.

I invite you to take some time and really dive into Advent. Perhaps using one of those daily calendars to take a moment and turn your thoughts and heart to a God who loves you. To let the opening of those little windows be a moment to look out of your own windows and see those around you in this community whom God loves as well. Take a moment to embrace the sweetness of life as you bite into that piece of chocolate (or wine or beer if that is more your style of Advent calendar) and know that God holds us amid a world that is ever changing. Take some time each day to reflect on how you might become and incarnation of God’s love in the world today, living out what Jesus has shown us as he walked upon this very same Earth.

And remember that Christmas is not just one day. Christmas is a season of blessing that extends for twelve wonderful days. Breathe in the blessings that God shares with us with each and every breath we take. Spend time with friends and family. Remember those who live in the midst of struggle as the rest of the world seems covered in twinkling lights, while the sound of joyous carols drift down like the snow that falls from the sky. Remember the children around the world who look toward that day when we gather together as one people on this little, blue marble floating through the cosmos.

May you be blessed in this season of hope!

Pastor Scott



**HOMEBOUND?  
WE'LL BRING YOU  
CHRISTMAS DINNER**



**Delivered by  
ANACORTES LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Sunday, December 25 - Between 10:30 & 11:30 am

To schedule delivery, call the church office  
*no later than NOON - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22*

Anacortes Lutheran Church office 360-293-9586

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

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**"SHOEBOX PROJECT"**

**Thank you! Thank you!**  
for your generous support.



On Monday, November 14 we delivered 44 boxes (32 for girls, 11 for boys and 1 other) filled with toys, school supplies, and health care items. These boxes will be shipped around the world to children in need. Your prayers and kindness are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you, Linda Walker

# The Christmas Store

**Store Hours:**

Sunday, Dec 11	11:00am - 1:00pm
Wednesday, Dec 14	4:00pm - 6:00pm
Sunday, Dec 18	11:00am - 1:00pm
Monday, Dec 19	10:00am - 2:00pm
Adult shoppers	\$ donations to the front office




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**Josephine Caring Community  
Christmas Gift-Giving**

Josephine Caring Community is inviting you to consider two ways to share the spirit of Christmas with their 175 residents.

- 1) **BUNDLE GIFT Offering:** consisting of a Throw Blanket, Neck-Pillow & a Pair of Non-Skid Socks. Bring Bundled Gift in a Gift Bag to church by **WED, DEC 14**.
- 2) **MUSICAL Offering:** weekday or weekend Nov 14 – Jan 1. If interested in sharing a musical Contact Shannon Terpak at 360-629-2126 offering <https://www.josephinecc.com/>

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**SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE**

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**THE WOMEN OF THE ANACORTES WELCA ARE SPONSORING:**

**A Family of 5 from the Salvation Army.**

- You will find many angel tags on the tree.
- Each tag has a gift for a person, a family gift or food gift.
- Take an angel tag & buy the gift
- The gift should be unwrapped with the angel tag attached to it.
- **Return the gift to church under the tree by December 13.**

If you have question please speak with Jeanean or Jeanette.  
Thank you for Blessing this family during Christmas!



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## From your COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Well, the Election is over and the returns are mostly in! And the conclusion is that Anacortes Lutheran had another good month. At Council, tonight, we had our monthly roundtable wrap up.

**Several things impressed me:**

**The Sewing Circle made delivery of 95 large boxes (over 2300# !) of 153 Quilts, Baby clothes, School and Health Kits, and blankets.** Their quilt raffle was also a great success and more than paid for the shipping. Thanks to Bryan Walker and Bob Higgins for trucking them safely to Seattle and Lutheran World Relief.

**Ten New Members this month!** We welcome Five new households to our church family this month.

What a delight! Please introduce yourselves to: Lacey and Kenny Smith (with Caden and Stella,) Paddy and Bill Sarvis, Melinda and Howard Sorensen, Marta and Kirk Swanson (with baby Annika,) and Gary and Joy Walter. Their pictures will all be in the directory so be sure and greet them!

**Paul and Julie Dusenbury Art Auction:** On Saturday, October 22nd, Paul and Julie honored the Memory of Paul's parents, Bob and Virginia Dusenbury, with the sale and auction of over 200 pieces of art from a lifetime of creativity by both parents. The sales resulted in net proceeds of over \$6000 which they have designated to go directly into funds benefiting our Anacortes Lutheran Pre School. What a tremendously generous gift.

**Online Worship is a growing part of our Sunday attendance:** Today, Online viewing of Anacortes Lutheran's Sunday service represents roughly 40% of the total audience. A few times, there have been more folks online than in the pews! It's a tribute to the combined efforts of our whole Live Stream team: Pat Carrie-Smith, (manager), Pastor Scott, Becky Eggleston, and Live Stream/Sound Board: Kenny Holzemer (manager) plus volunteers: Kendra Kennedy, Gina Peterson, Joe Pestar, Brian Hanrahan, and Matt Kerschbaum.

**A New Fellowship group is forming focused on Young Adults in their 20's to 40's:** They held their first get together at Anthony's Restaurant and was a great success. When Kirk Swanson briefly left the room, they quickly elected him Leader! Part of the event involved volunteers to child sit at church while the adults relaxed and got to know each other outside of the immediate church setting. Everybody, volunteers included, reported having a ball.

It seems like there are positive things happening in every area. So, my message this month is: Enjoy the rewards of all your combined contributions. As we hit our stride to finish the year, remember to run all the way through the finish line. This is a good place to be!

John Parker, Council President  
Go In Peace, Serve the Lord

### **Pray for our 2022 Church Council & Committees**

<i>President:</i>	John Parker	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Lane Phelan
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Brian Hanrahan	<i>Education:</i>	Kendra Kennedy
<i>Secretary:</i>	Anita Holzemer	<i>Personnel:</i>	Jeanean Brogan
<i>Outreach:</i>	Peggy White	<i>Properties:</i>	Bill LeDuc
<i>Preschool:</i>	Anne Barry	<i>Worship:</i>	David Bjornson
<i>Stewardship:</i>	Donald Devine	<i>WELCA :</i>	Jeanette Christensen
<i>Fellowship :</i>		<i>Youth:</i>	Heather Harrington
<i>NW Synod Reps:</i>	Linda Millo & Lois Cassidy	<i>Council Youth rep:</i>	Persephone Pestar
<i>Josephine Delegate:</i>	Jerry Bongard & Bill LeDuc		

## CHOIR PRACTICE HAS MOVED!

ALC's choir is now practicing on Sunday mornings at 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Grab a cup of coffee & a treat and come join us up in the choir loft.

We have gained two new members and are looking for more!! We especially need altos and men! Please consider joining us and singing praises to our Lord.

If this helps nudge you to join us, we will be having our **CHRISTMAS POTLUCK/GIFT EXCHANGE PARTY on Wednesday, Dec 28 at 5:30 pm**

We will announce where we will have the party, later. Come join!!!

Any questions? Contact Laurie Julius-Carver, [ljc@fidalgo.net](mailto:ljc@fidalgo.net)



## PRAYERS - Receive the Gift of Prayer

A list of Prayer Requests for our Congregation can be found in the Sunday scoop and on our website under "Prayer Page." Give the gift of prayer by including these requests in your daily prayers each week.

**Request or Update a prayer** by calling the church during office hours at 360-293-9586. Let them know if you are hospitalized, ill, or needing their prayers.

**Call Peggy** at 360-299-1184 for your prayer needs at any time, including Prayer Chain, confidential prayer, & updates to your prayer request.

As always, Pastor Scott Peterson is available to pray with you or for you.

You have a choice for your prayer request to be:

**CONFIDENTIAL – Prayer Chain and Pastor only**

**OR**

**PRINTED - Public** list in the Sunday Scoop and on the website Prayer page.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Caring and Sharing

Should you have an interest in serving on the Outreach Committee or you have a brilliant idea, please contact Dave White at 206-226-7182, or email at [lazygal@frontier.com](mailto:lazygal@frontier.com).

## 1st Sunday of the Month

### PRAISE SUNDAY

We will be singing contemporary Christian Music the 1st Sunday of the month.

Led by the **Praise Team**: Matt Kerschbaum and Dana McCoy with our lead singer Rock star himself, Pastor Scott Peterson.

### FAMILY SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of the month

The **first Sunday of the month** is **Family Sunday** where children are encouraged to assist in the Worship service.

You can sign up at our Opportunity Desk for future months in the year

We are looking for the following support in service Sunday, Nov 6:

- Entry Greeter (2)
- Welcome Desk Greeter (1):
- Usher (2)
- Acolyte (2)
- Reading (1-2)
- Communion Assts: (+1)
- Noisy Offering Attendant (2)
- Personal talent of instrumental/poetry reading
- Fellowship Treats
- Assist serving/clean up with fellowship hour.

To encourage active listening with children during the service 5 words are chosen by the Sunday schoolers to be used in the Pastors sermon.

Thank you for allowing us to support your children's growth in their faith in our Lord.

### NOISY OFFERINGS - 1st Sunday of the month

This is another highlight of Family Sunday and is to be designated for a youth activity.

What great lessons learned about tithing and saving? WOW...what a family of givers in our congregation.

**Thank you all!**

**So save your change for the next  
NOISY OFFERING — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**



All women are invited to a:

## CHRISTMAS POTLUCK BRUNCH

Tuesday, December 13 at 10 am

In the Fellowship Hall  
Fellowship, Food and Fun!

**Bring a dish to share and an unwrapped coffee cup/mug to exchange.**

Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

### WELCA BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

CHANGE OF TIME: 1:00 PM

### SHARE THE SEASON WITH OTHERS:

The small Christmas tree in the narthex is for our "adopted" Salvation Army family. Take a tag or two and return the unwrapped items to the tree by December 15th. Gift cards should be brought to the office.

### Lutheran World Relief KNITTING NEWS

**NO meetings in December, January, February**

**Next meeting—Monday, March 20, 2023**

Please call me to get yarn between meetings and to give your sweater counts, Thanks.

**Our 2023 Shipment Total is:**

**Sweater/hat sets – 20**

**Sweaters – 3**

**Hats – 0**



One sweater/hat set goes into each layette set.

We use a fun one piece sweater pattern.

Beginners are welcome and teaching is available.

~Linda Anderson 360-588-1730

### SEWING NEWS - All are Welcome!

#### SEWING DAYS—TUESDAYS

DECEMBER 6, 20 & 27 / JANUARY 3

Starting at 9 am till 2 pm

in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a lunch and join us at Noon

Our fall shipment has been delivered!!!

I want to give a big thank you to Bryan Walker & Bob Higgins for helping us load the truck & driving it down.

With a special thank you to all those that helped weigh boxes at 3pm on Thursday, Nov 3.

We shipped 97 boxes weighing about 2300lbs

Quilts -164

school kits- 173

Personal care Kits- 250

Fabric kits - 31

Baby care kits- 236

We would also like to express how thankful we are to Clarence Rogers for his expertise in fixing the sewing machines when needed.



Serving in Christ,  
Julia Rogers 360-293-4232

**We are still collecting** flannel for baby blankets & diapers. Here is what goes into the kits.

#### Personal Care Kits

1 tooth brush

1 comb

1 pair of clippers

2 bars of soap—8-9oz bars.

1 bath towel (NOT the great big ones)

Size-20X40 or 52X70

#### Baby Care Kits

1 Hand Towel (dark colored recommended)

2 bars of soap—ivory or dove 8-9oz bars

Diaper pins

1 sweater jacket

2 baby blankets

2 sleepers

2 pairs of socks

2 onesies-cotton t-shirts

## MEN'S Thursday BIBLE STUDY

**EVERY THURSDAY MORNING at 7:00 am**

In conference room #1

Led by Boyd Veer

## PASTOR'S Thursday BIBLE STUDY

**EVERY THURSDAY at 11:00 am**

In conference room #1

Led by Pastor Scott

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

**MEET TUESDAY, January 10 at 10 am**

HANNAH & ANNA CIRCLE - in conference rm #2

Led by: Linda Walker

RUTH CIRCLE - in conference rm #1

Led by: Helene Fink 293-630-7544

## ALTAR GUILD MEETING

**Monday, January 2**

**10:30 am** in Conference room 2

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES - Upcoming Events

**Dec 4 — Last day of Confirmation until Jan 15**

**Dec 11— 8-9:30 am Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal**

**11-1 pm Children's Christmas Store • Opening Day**

**Dec 14 — 4-6 pm Children's Christmas Store • Open**

**Dec 18 — 10 am Children's Christmas Program**

**11-1 pm Children's Christmas Store • Open (last day)**

**Jan 8 — Youth Pancake Breakfast**

**Jan 15 — 9 am 1<sup>st</sup> Day back to Sunday School/Confirmation**

## PROPERTY WORK DAY

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**Starting 9 am**

Anyone who would like to help beautify our church is invited. If you have projects to consider for Saturday parties contact

Led by Bill LeDuc, Property Chair



## ALC SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY **PRIME TIMERS"**

- Retirees gathering together for Fun, Food and Fellowship

## BINGO

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, at 10 am  
in Conference Room #2.**

Goodies will be served.

Please bring a drink.

*No sign up is needed.*

BINGO						
4	26	43	59	70		
9	30	41	55	68		
7	23		50	63		
8	20	31	60	75		
13	18	34	52	69		

## GET-TOGETHER - PECK OF PIZZAS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, at 11 am**

in the Fellowship Hall.

*Note time change.*

The theme is:

**\*Merry Christmas\***



*Oh Holy Night*

Please sign up at the Opportunity Desk or call, text or email Julie before Wednesday, December 7.

*Have a great month, stay safe, and be happy.  
We look forward to seeing you soon.*

*Paul & Julie Dusenbury*

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will take  
**December 11– January 8 Off**,  
and start up again Sunday, Jan 15.

**Confirmation students have  
been requested to help with the  
Christmas program** by joining the  
Kids in Sunday School at 9 am.

Speak to Stacey Pestar for more info.

## NURSERY HELPERS

### Sunday Nursery helpers needed

Heather Harrington, Nursery supervisor is looking for Teen & Adult volunteers to help in the nursery with her. It is important to have 2 people at all times.

Sign-up at the Opportunity desk—look for the  
**Faith And Service Team (FAST) chart.**

All that is required is a love of children and a short background check. Email or Visit the church office for the form.

# Worshiping Together

Sundays at 9:00 am - Christian Education Time for Everyone

**Sunday Service at 10:00 am in person or live stream**

Watch from your home by going to our website at <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org> & click tab "Online Ministry"

## DECEMBER • FAITH AND SERVICE TOGETHER

To volunteer to fill in an **empty spot** sign-up at the Opportunity desk or call / email the office.

	Family & Praise Sunday 2nd Sunday in Advent	3rd Sunday in Advent	Children's Christmas Program 4th Sunday in Advent	Christmas Day
Dates:	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25
Readings	Esther 4:1-17 Matt 5:13-16	Isaiah 42:1-9 Matt 12:15-21	Matthew 1:18-25 Psalm 23:1-4, or 23:4	Luke 2:8-20 Psalm 95:6-7
Greeters	Carl Ellsworth Jr Carl Ellsworth III	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
Ushers				
Reader	Lois Cassidy	Evan Nauman	Anne Barry	
Acolytes	1. Stella Smith 2.	1. 2.	1. Stella Smith 2.	1. 2.
Communion Assistants	1. Lois Cassidy 2.	1. 2.	1. Anne Barry 2.	1. 2.
Nursery	1. Erin Flanigan 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
<b>Fellowship Hour — After Worship everyone is invited to join us for coffee, juice and treats</b>				
Serve & Cleanup	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
Treats	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.



Sound Team:	Harlan Eggleston, Brian Hanrahan, Michael Hanrahan, Kenny Holzemer, Matt Kerschbaum, Pat Carrie Smith
Live Stream Team:	Rebecca Eggleston, Anita Holzemer, Kevin & Kendra Kennedy, Joe Pestar, Gina Peterson, Pat Carrie Smith
Altar Guild:	Gunilla Wold, Grace Boggio, Diane Gusa, Norma Knutsen, Paula Olson, Jenny Remmerden, Karen Tavalero, Caroline Spehar

# DECEMBER

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

01	Nancy Loftis	17	Hunter Harrington
04	Ida Ford	17	Breauna Sullivan
05	Johanna Tracy	19	Carl Ellsworth Jr.
06	Robert Claus	20	Jim Carver
06	Brianna Etlicher	20	Pat Faulkner
08	Stacey Pestar	20	Diane Gusa
08	Melanie Sahnnow	20	Gary Walter
10	Connie Bliss	22	Colleen Legan
10	William Rasar	23	Anne C Barry
10	Norm Vigre	23	Philip Case
11	Madeline Lowrie	24	Chuck Arneson
11	Matthew Lowrie	24	Irene Parker
12	Liz Campbell	26	Owen Espinoza
12	Robert Eggleston	26	Hannah Smythe
12	Tyson Mavar	27	Jason Myers
13	Ed Berg	28	Matthew Phelan
15	Alice Dohve	29	Erin Flanigan
15	Sheila Duquaine	29	Darcy Storme
15	Stella Smith	30	Peggy White
15	Matthew Sullivan	31	Norma Knutsen
		31	Dana McCoy

Thank you for all you do!

*Church Volunteers*



**We are humbled by the generosity & selflessness of our volunteers.**

For your enthusiasm & genuine dedication in assisting us in everything we do. To those we see & those behind the scenes we never see.

With genuine Gratitude deep within our hearts please accept our warmest "Thank You".

We will always be thankful & blessed for having volunteers like you! 

## DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

Date	Years Married
2	Gary & Judy Card
2	Donald & Rachel Devine
12	Robert & Rebecca Eggleston
18	Glenn & Juli Sullivan
18	DeAnna & Robert Claus
24	Kenny & Lacee Smith
27	Blake & Tammy Tornga
27	Stan & Leone Zimmerman
31	Matt & Ginny Connolly

Church Office will be Closed

Monday, December 26th



## NOVEMBER- Worship Services

Date	Events	In-Person	Live Stream
6	All Saints/New Member	123	64
13		119	42
20	Christ the King	119	46
27	<i>Not available at time of printing</i>		



Dear Lord, Thank you for watching over me and my loved ones and keeping us safe.

Guide my steps this day.

I am waiting on you and listening to your still, small voice to speak to my heart.

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## ALC COUNCIL MINUTES - NOVEMBER 10, 2022

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**Attendees:** John Parker, Lane Phelan, Jeanette Christensen, Jeaneen Brogan, Pastor Scott, Anne Barry, Anita Holzemer, Dave Bjornsen, Bill LeDuc

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. October minutes were approved. MSP.

**Treasurer's Report:** We are spot on in the balance of member offerings to spending. The Dusenbury art auction brought in \$6,000 and was placed into the preschool reserve. The preschool mortgage has a balloon payment due on Oct 2023. It's still our goal to pay the mortgage off prior to next October. Thanksgiving benevolences will be given to World Hunger and Family Promise of Skagit Valley. Christmas benevolences will be designated to Salvation Army. MSP.

**Pastor's Report:** Plans are underway for Christ the King Sunday in November. Pastor will be on vacation that day so the service will be led by lay leaders. The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans in the summer of 2024. Tentative plans are being made to attend. A facility use request was received from BSA Girls' Troop for Christmas Cookie Camp, Dec 16-17. MSP

**President's Report:** We are averaging 84 for online attendance and 102 for in person attendance. We continue to recruit for council vacancies and are encouraged.

### Old Business:

- Anita reported on open items still needing action.
- Photo Directory Status: Kathy Khile has completed taking photos. We hope to have the directory printed soon.
- Youth Ministry and Education Format discussion: The Education hour at 9 am seems to be working well and has been well attended. We are looking at hiring a paid youth staff person in the new year. Without a paid staff person, it is hard to put this job on volunteers.
- Update on the Church illegal entry: The windows downstairs have been secured. Janitors have expressed concern that doors and windows are being left open. If there are future security concerns, we will notify the janitors so they are kept updated. Specific names will be gathered from the Scouts to be the person responsible for lock-up.
- Pre-School job descriptions and by-laws have been revised and completed. They are now in line with other committee job descriptions. Anne submitted them for approval. MSP

### New Business:

- Josephine Home Christmas gifts: Gifts will be collected and Bill will deliver them to Josephine. Sewing women are helping to make lap robes and neck pillows.
- Schedule Annual Reviews for Staff and Janitors: **Bill and** Jeaneen will meet with staff for performance reviews. The Executive board will meet the first week of December to go over Pastor Scott's evaluation.
- Advent dinner discussion: Three Advent dinners will be served. Don Devine and Jeanette Christensen will coordinate the meal for Nov 30. Dec 7 & 14 will be headed up by Kathy and Dan Khile. Volunteers will be gathered for set-up and clean-up. Holden Service will follow the Advent dinners. Jeanette will contact Rachel to get this into the newsletter.
- A larger poster for coffee hour sign-ups will be moved to the snack table to get more attention on Sunday mornings.
- Legacy Endowment Funds: There is \$5,200 available to be designated this year. Decision was made to spend it accordingly: \$2,500 to preschool mortgage, \$1,000 to Christmas dinner, \$1,700 to ACC benevolence fund for community outreach. MSP

*continued on next page*

*Council minutes cont.....*

**Council Roundtable:**

**WELCA** Christmas brunch will be held Dec 14. Another quilt giveaway is coming. 97 boxes of quilts and supplies were delivered to Seattle. We will again be adopting a family or two from the Salvation Army. The Angel Tree will go up Thanksgiving weekend.

**Worship:** We will start passing the offering plates beginning this Sunday. Continuous communion will start this Sunday as well with one blessing at the end of the communion meal rather than individual table blessings. The Sunday School Christmas program will be held Dec 18. There will be three services Christmas Eve – 3, 5, and 10 pm. There will also be a short service at 10 am on Christmas Day. Hanging of the Greens will take place Nov 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be asked to bring down decoration boxes from upstairs following the service on Nov 20.

**Properties:** Olsen's will set up the Advent wreath in time for Christ the King Sunday. Bill is looking at getting cameras and lights for added security around the property. Estimate of \$6,000-\$7,000 for equipment and electrical installation. He is still waiting on a couple more quotes. A privacy screen has been installed on the preschool. Electrical plug-ins will be moved in the front of the church for easier access. A second door will be added to the church choir loft to help emergency exits.

**Christmas Dinner** will again be take-out only which is similar to other recent years. It will include deliveries to homebound. They are planning on 350+ meals.

**Personnel:** Several issues were discussed. Personnel committee will follow up and Jeanean will report back to council in January.

**Stewardship:** Don will work on a budget and get it submitted for approval in time for the next council mtg.

Our next council meeting will be held December 8 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita Holzemer, Council Secretary



**Annual Report** Please have all reports sent to the church office by Monday, January 9.  
  
Thank you! Rachel

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## THIS & THAT– BITS & PIECES

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Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday / 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Church Office email & phone #: 360-293-9586 / info@anacorteslutheran.org

Do You Need to talk to the Pastor? Schedule an appointment by email or calling the office

Pastor Scott Peterson: pastorscott@anacorteslutheran.org

“LIKE” our Facebook / YouTube / Instagram pages: Anacortes Lutheran Church

Worship Services, Updates & News: VISIT our website - <https://www.anacorteslutheran.org>

Has your phone #, address or email changed? Are you receiving emails from church? Call the office!

Do you need help? Ride to worship, a friend? Call the church office - maybe we can help.

Newsletter Deadline: The Third Monday of every month.

Prayer Requests: Keep the church current on your loved ones who are or need to be named on our prayer list by calling or emailing the office.

Altar Flowers: To give flowers in honor or memory of someone, sign up on the “Flower Chart” in the Narthex.

Giving 5 Ways: Vanco Mobile App/TEXT 360-328-7521/mail a check /offering plate/ALC website ~ Giving tab

Welcome Desk: (*located in the Narthex*) You can find new member information, newsletter publications, weekly Sunday Scoops, “Christ in our Home” devotionals & additional information.

Opportunity Desk: (*next to the Fellowship Hall*). Here you will find different ways to be of service throughout the church, Serving in Worship and Fellowship hour. Sign up sheets for Group Events, Prime Timers, Youth Events, etc. Preschool & Confirmation Registration forms.

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## **FROM BISHOP Shelly Wee – *The Spirit* December 2022**

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I took the quilt to the cleaners to get washed. They looked at it and handed it back. If we touch this, they said, it will fall apart.

To most eyes, the quilt is nothing to look at. The bright yellow ducklings have long faded to muted colors. The binding is frayed. Happy, my dog from childhood, chewed holes in the fabric where stuffing came out and repair was never finished. (Happy did this to many sheets and blankets in my growing up years. My sisters and I called them “Happy holes.” My mom did not.)

From the time I was a toddler, this quilt has held my laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger. In darkness, this quilt surrounded me in warmth. Years later, my children were wrapped in this same quilt.

Long before my grandma quilted my “duckie” blanket and gave it to me, there was a young family without permanent shelter and a baby soon to be born. The village midwives came into the night to help birth a baby for a family unknown. They came to an unhoused couple, a foreign couple, a poor couple with no prospects or power. And yet, these midwives left their warm houses and their own families, bringing their own handmade blankets and strips of cloth as they participated in this baby’s birth. And, when he was born, they wrapped this child and his mom in warmth.

We know this because we hear the angels’ words to the shepherds, “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ Surely if the baby was wrapped in bands of cloth, the child was also wrapped in blankets.

What a difference it would have been without these blankets, without these swaddling cloths, without these midwives. Without the skills and the gifts God gave to them. The vocation of midwife brought Jesus into the world. The hands and wisdom of these women wrapped him in swaddling cloths.

It is such an amazing story ... through God’s invitation, and from Mary saying yes and Joseph saying yes and the innkeeper saying yes and the midwives saying yes – Jesus came.

Two thousand years ago, in a way no one could have imagined, God was with us in human form. Wrapped in blankets. Held in love.

What love, what grace, what beauty. Amazingly and almost inconceivably, in this little baby, God’s love came and God’s love continues to be among us through Jesus – Immanuel, Incarnate, God-in-the-flesh love. Embodied love ... for you and for me. Always.

I know that life is messy. Life is sometimes hard. Sometimes the world seems out of control and we are so small against so much of what is out there. And yet ... through something as small and vulnerable as a newborn baby, we are promised that God is here. Amongst us. And God’s love is for everyone. Absolutely everyone. Regardless of your job or your political party, your anxiety or your income. Your ethnicity, your language, your gender, your situation in life. God’s love is for you who celebrate this holy day and God’s love is for those who don’t. God’s love is for those you are estranged from and those you embrace.

This Christmas and this year, may you feel surrounded by God’s love and presence. In your laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger - in darkness and in light may you feel God wrapping you into God’s embrace ... like a worn, faded blanket that is covered in ducks and Happy holes.

Have a Blessed Christmas,  
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

